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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.



### A COLONIAL HOUSE.

IGHTLY considered, the old buildings in this country could easily develop very many examples of decoration that for permanency and often for artistic merit, might serve to instruct the decorators of our own day, and as the Colonial is now in general favor, the houses of the Revolutionary period will doubtless be the source of much that may be regarded as good and as fashionable for the next several years.

There is a house in New London that is a perfect type of the Colonial, its tall square columns and overhanging delicate roof shadowing the windows and the rooms of the lower two stories, the slender chimnies and the wide central entrance all are distinctive of the earlier period in our national history. This house is noticeable by its position in the town and the air of moderate age, just sufficient to insure respect for its stability without creating the thought that infirmity of joints and joists had settled upon it. The mansion was built by General Jedidiah Huntington in 1796, and was remarkable or noticeable at the time as the residence of a prominent man, and gathered further fame on a tradition that General Lafayette passed a night beneath its roof.

We show on this page a view in the house looking from the hall through into the drawing-room, indicating the old style of interior architecture, with a liberal addition of modern improvements. The mantel in the hall is unique and picturesque, and that in the drawing-room, more recent in its shape, is in keeping with the other furnishing of the apartment. A Moorish lattice transom screens the upper portion of the opening between the drawing-room and library, while a portière hangs beneath, and a bookcase divides its volumes in both rooms by being placed so that the portière and the transom overhang its centre. The ceiling decoration in the drawing-room is something novel and peculiar, consisting of a reproduction in the four corner panels of the various devices peculiar to those old printers and bookmakers whose conscientious work has made their names historic, in the longer panels extending parallel with the walls are initial letters and monograms taken from early printed books, missals, manuscripts, &c., and in still other panels there are engravers monograms while the centre piece bears a design from a Grolier binding.

Standing in the hall at the point indicated by the jardiniere, one looks through the drawing-room toward the smoking alcove, divided from the main apartment by portières and lattices oriental in their design and appearance. This view in fact is one of the most beautiful and fascinating that the house offers, the pro-

fusion of rich rugs on floor and cleverly thrown where they prove the most effective, and a judicious display of flowers, many of them tropical, makes a delightful picture of refinement and taste and comfort. From the smoking alcove, through the lattice, one finds another prospect, no less pleasing because reversed, and the view extends across the drawing-room, the hall, and beyond it the full width of the house, some fifty feet or more.

Altogether it is an excellent example of what agreeable possibilities there are in the old-fashioned houses, possibilities that even the resources of our present architectural perfection can hardly improve upon or extend, and when the owner of such a house has good judgment and good selection in such matters, and is practically seconded by a good decorator, as the owner of this house was by the Fox, Whitmore Co., of Hartford, there are opportunities for the very best and the very finest of results.

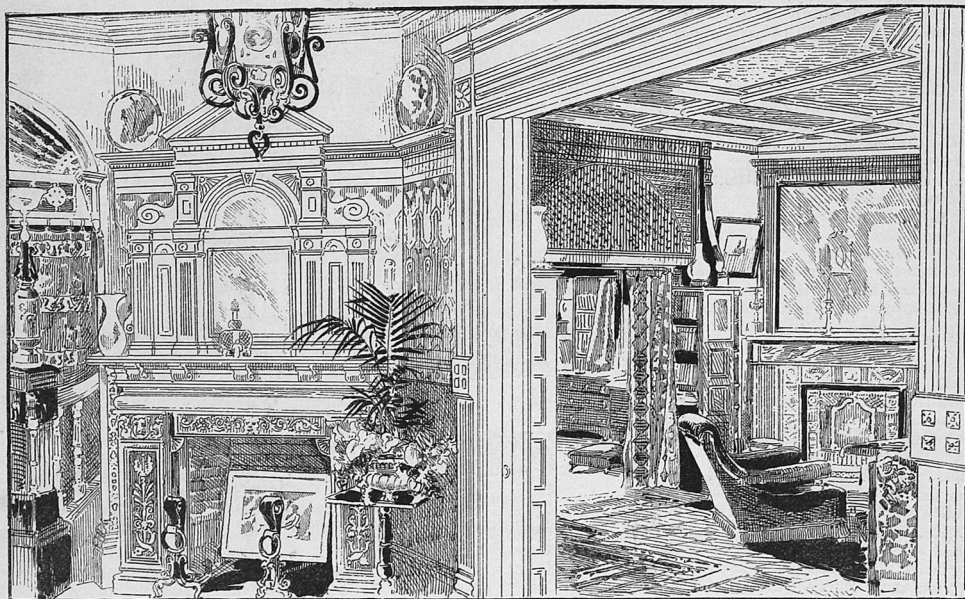
### PREPARATION FOR PAPER HANGING.

THE preparation required before paper hanging varies according to the state or condition of the apartments. If it is a newly built house, it will be quite necessary to be certain that the walls are thoroughly dry, and should any damp be observed in any part, after a sufficient time has elapsed for the mortar and stone work to dry, means must be adopted either to cure the defect, or to keep the damp back from the paper when it is hung. If this is not done, the damp will disfigure the paper, and it will mildew and come off the wall. Very often the damp proof paper will for a long time effectually keep back the damp, but thin lead must be resorted to where the first proves insufficient. Many walls will be better with a coat of thin size before commencing to hang the paper, and in best rooms where a good paper is meant to be hung, it would be advisable to first hang lining paper, when you will have a smooth foundation to work upon, and an expensive paper is not then likely to be stained from the back from any cause.

Where a room is meant to be re-papered, all the loose paper must be torn down, and defects in the walls made good by pasting on brown paper, while crevices requiring to be stopped round doors, windows, fireplaces, or cupboards, must be made good with cement. When bedrooms require re-papering, it is sometimes advisable, and may be also the wish of the occupier, to have the whole of the paper stripped off, which is certainly best in a sanitary point of view; in that case the washing down brush and some warm water will soon effect the desired end.

Where walls are in a very bad condition it is oftentimes best to plug the wall and put up battens, when canvas can be tightly strained and tacked on and sized. Be careful not to put the battens too wide apart, or the canvas may strain and get loose.

A GOOD cement for china is ordinary carriage varnish, if put together neatly; the fracture will be hardly perceptible, and it is not affected by water.



VIEW FROM HALL LOOKING INTO DRAWING-ROOM, IN A "COLONIAL HOME."